

OPEN BURNING GUIDELINES

IS OPEN BURNING ALLOWED IN KANSAS?

Yes, the following is allowed with local authority approval:

- Residents of a premises containing five or fewer dwellings burning only residential household waste, trees, brush or yard waste. This does not include construction and demolition wastes or structures.
- Burns for cooking or ceremonial purposes, taking place on public or private land regularly used for recreation.
- Burns for agricultural purposes (crop, range, pasture, wildlife or watershed management), when:
 - Local fire control authority is notified (if required).
 - Burning will not create a traffic or airport safety hazard.
 - The burn is supervised until the fire is completely out.

Anything else requires local and KDHE approval.

Submit an open burning request by filling out the KDHE Application for Approval - Open Burning Operation. It can be found here: kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/826.



Open burning is the burning of any material that releases smoke or other emissions directly into the air.

HELPFUL TIPS

Obtaining approval

KDHE may approve an open burn if it is:

- Necessary.
- In the public interest.
- Allowed by the local government or local fire authority.

Examples include fires for:

- Training of personnel in firefighting procedures.
- Commercial burning of trees and brush.

Know before you light

- Be mindful of local laws and regulations.
- Dry the material as much as possible before burning.
- Avoid burning on cloudy or low-cloud-cover days.
- Burn in the daylight and stop adding material two hours before sunset.
- Make sure wind speeds are between 5 to 15 mph.
- Supervise the burn until the fire is completely out.
- Notify houses and businesses within 1,000 ft. of a burn.



In a typical year, 2.4 million acres are burned in the Flint Hills region, causing a dip in air quality. You can help keep our air clean!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are there alternatives to burning?

Yes, landfilling, burying on site (with permission from KDHE Bureau of Waste Management; 785-296-1600), composting, donating or recycling materials are possible options. See the Recycling Partnership tool linked in the QR code below for information on what is recyclable in your community.

What is the April burn ban?

The April burn ban aims to limit smoke levels during prescribed burns in the Flint Hills region. Prescribed burns restore and preserve natural wildlife habitats, provide better forage for cattle, control invasive plant species, and minimize the risk of wildfires. Scan the QR code below for a list of affected counties (K.A.R. 28-19-645a) and a smoke-modeling tool designed to help plan agricultural burn operations.

How can I protect my health on smoky days?

Pay attention to fires near you. Scan the QR code below for resources and an interactive fire map. Stay inside when possible, keeping doors, windows and fireplace dampers shut. When driving your car in smoky areas, keep your windows and vents closed, and operate A/C on "recirculate" setting. Check with your doctor if you experience persistent symptoms of smoke inhalation, especially if you have asthma or other lung diseases.



Additional resources are available at sbeap.org/air-quality/open-burning or by scanning the QR code. Contact the Kansas Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) at 800-578-8898 or sbeap@k-state.edu, or find your local KDHE District Office at kdhe.ks.gov/288/District-Offices. SBEAP assistance is always free and confidential. Paid for in part by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

